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OCI No. 0509/63 25

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
17 March 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: President Kennedy's Trip to Costa Rica
Situation Report as of 1500 EST

25X1 1. Latest indications are that President Orlich has now decided against the detention of subversive Costa Rican nationals and other agitators, except in cases where specific criminal acts can be charged against them. This means that a sizeable number--perhaps as many as 100--of Communists, malcontents, and other disruptive elements will be at liberty during the Conference. Efforts are being made to establish surveillance of known troublemakers, but [redacted] is dubious that such surveillance can be effective and feels that the security risk has risen measurably.

2. However, the public remains overwhelmingly well disposed toward the Conference and the visit of the President. In these circumstances it is unlikely that agitators would be able to obtain support for any significant demonstration or concerted disruptive action. On the other hand the chances that individual acts of protest and possibly even of violence will take place are materially higher.

3. On March 15 Costa Rican security services in Puntarenas uncovered a conspiracy whose purpose appeared to be the disruption of the Conference and of President Kennedy's visit. Nine suspects, some of whom are known Communists, have been arrested and it appears that the plot was uncovered early enough so that it can be contained.

4. The atmosphere in the university remains strongly favorable to President Kennedy. We have, however, received reports that a few students are planning to embarrass the President when he visits the campus. By and large, however, Costa Rican

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students are moderate and well-disposed toward the President. A majority of student leaders, aware of the plans to make trouble, are prepared to counter them and to insure that the President is given a friendly reception. Frank Marshall, irresponsible and disgruntled ex-Security Minister, has stated that he is considering extra-legal measures against anti-US student leaders. Any such action on his part could be counter-productive and might sour the enthusiasm of moderate students.

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